

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Ship Construction

REPORT
DATE DISTR. 18 June 1954

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NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT 25X1

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REFERENCES

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1. The following newly constructed ships have been launched at the Gdansk Shipyard in Gdansk (Danzig): one large tramp steamer of the MARCHLEWSKI type; three coal-ore transport ships (steamships) which are slightly larger and better constructed than the SOLDEK-class ships; three "motor-ships" of the NOWA HUTA-class; four large trawlers; and one "S-boat" (Schnellboot) for the navy. If the S-boat is successful, the Gdansk Shipyard will construct more naval vessels.
2. The Gdynia shipyard has launched six "motor-ships" which will be used as fast freighters, and several naval trawlers are undergoing repair. The Polish destroyer BURZA has returned to Gdynia from Oksywie and will probably be completed this summer (1954).
3. The Szczecin (Stettin) shipyard has launched three coal-ore transport ships and has several of these ships under construction.
4. About 80 to 85 percent of the construction in the Polish shipyards is destined for the USSR because, as it is rumored, the Soviet shipyards on the Baltic, especially Kronstadt-Leningrad, build only warships.¹ The Polish shipyards are seeking various machines and tools in the West. This is being done under Soviet pressure, because the Soviets want to raise significantly the production of ships in Polish shipyards, regardless of the price, and as quickly as possible.

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5. [redacted] It the ship is destined to sail under the Polish flag, it is named shortly before dedication which is done without any ceremony. Ships destined for the USSR receive Soviet coats of arms and the Soviet flag. Soviet crews sail the ship to the USSR. The ships are not named until they reach the USSR.

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1. Comment: It has been reported [redacted] that the Poles use ships as barter items, especially to obtain the machinery necessary for the Lenin Works from the Soviet Union.

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